

Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 JUSE-00 COME-00 FTC-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 /047 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1071

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SZ

SUBADECT: ANTITRUST: SWISS WATCHES

REF: STATE 170063

1. REFTEL INFORMATION WAS CONVEYED ORALLY AND BY LETTER TO MAX KRELL, THE US DESK OFFICER IN THE SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE, ON JULY 21. THIS IS THE USUAL CHANNEL FOR EXCHANGING INFORMATION ON COMMERCIAL POLICY AND RELATED MATTERS.

2. SWISS RESPONSE WAS IN THE FORM OF A LETTER DATED JULY 25 FROM AMBASSADOR KLAUS JACOBI, SWISS DELEGATE FOR TRADE AGREEMENTS, TO THE CHARGE. PERTINENT PORTION OF JACOBI'S LETTER FOLLOWS:

"SINCE THIS MATTER MIGHT GAIN AN IMPORTANCE DESERVING TO BE TREATED ON OUR LEVEL LET ME CONVEY TO YOU THAT THE SWISS AUTHORITIES HOPE THAT IT CAN BE DEALT WITH IN A WAY THAT WILL AVOID TENSIONS AND MINIMIZE EFFECTS ON OUR RELATIONSHIPS. A POSSIBLE ANTITRUST SUIT ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO COMMERCIAL POLICY QUESTIONS MIGHT NEVERTHELESS LEAD TO ADDITIONAL STRAIN AT A TIME WHEN THE INCLUSION OF THE WATCH SECTOR IN THE MULTI-LATERAL GATT TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS IS BEING DEBATED IN YOUR COUNTRY.

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I UNDERSTAND THAT THE COUNSEL REPRESENTING THE SWISS

COMPANIES HAS NOT YET HAD THE POSSIBILITY TO DISCUSS
THE PROPOSED COMPLAINT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT SUCH AN OP-
PORTUNITY WILL BE AFFORDED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND
THAT THE COMPLAINT WILL NOT BE FILED UNTIL A FULL
EXPLORATION OF THE ISSUES HAS BEEN POSSIBLE.
I HOPE THAT THIS COURSE WILL PERMIT A SETTLEMENT OF
THE MATTER IN A FASHION, SATISFACTORY TO ALL PARTIES."
ODELL

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